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BULLETIN OF THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

THE RECENT GIFT

OF

MR. FRANCIS L. LELAND

ON February 19th, Mr. Francis L. Leland presented the Museum with 1,200 shares of the New York County National Bank, of which he is the President. While it is impossible to state in figures the exact value of this gift, the fact that it at present yields an annual income at the rate of \$40 per share, or \$48,000 in all, shows that it represents to the Museum a well invested fund of more than a million dollars. It is therefore by far the largest gift of money ever made to the Museum by an individual during his lifetime. In other respects it is also unique, for not only was it made entirely without solicitation, but it came as an entire surprise to everybody connected with the Museum. Beyond the fact that he is an Annual Member, Mr. Leland had given no intimation to either Trustees or officials that he was especially interested in its affairs, and the gift was made in the simplest manner possible, through two of the Trustees, who called at his residence in response to a request from him, little suspecting the object of their visit. The certificates of the stock were then handed to them, accompanied by the following note:

N. Y., 19th Feb'y, 1912

J. PIERPONT MORGAN, ESQ.,
Pres. Metropolitan Museum of Art.

DEAR SIR:

I herewith make a gift outright of 1,200 shares of New York County Nat. Bank to the Association without conditions.

Very truly yours,

FRANCIS L. LELAND.

Welcome as this great gift is for itself, it is no less valuable to the Museum as a testimonial of the confidence which is thus expressed in its administration, and as an indication of the interest which is taken in its work by the people of New York.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

AT a meeting of the Board of Trustees, held on Monday, February 19, 1912, the following memorial resolution, read by Hon. Joseph H. Choate, was adopted:

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN BIGELOW

TRUSTEE

1886 — 1911

THE Trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art desire to put on record the deep regret which they share with the whole community at the death of their late distinguished associate, John Bigelow, who had been for many years a Trustee of the Museum, though the growing infirmities of extreme old age had of late prevented him from taking an active part in its affairs. Mr. Bigelow had long been justly regarded as the foremost private citizen not only of the city, but of the whole country.

As a public-spirited man he had no superior, and gifted by nature with a sound mind in a sound body, which he had carefully nurtured by a strict and never-failing observance of the laws of health, he was enabled for nearly a quarter of a century beyond the ordinary span of human life to keep in constant touch with the progress and expansion of the country, and to influence public opinion by frequent and stirring appeals to the common sense and patriotic spirit of his countrymen. He seemed to have learned that noble art from the example of Benjamin Franklin of whom he was not only the patient and faithful biographer, but a diligent and constant student of his works and letters, with every word of which he seemed to be perfectly familiar. His public service for many years as the representative of his country abroad was of great value and forms an important and honorable chapter in our diplomatic history. As a journalist in association with and in succession to Bryant, he for years maintained the American Press at its highest and best level, and set an example of high thinking